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## **PINCH HIT DELIVERS HOME RUN IN SATURDAY NIGHT'S \$100,000 DOGWOOD; QUICK AND RICH SCORES UPSET IN PRESIDENT OF UAE CUP**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017) – Richard Klein's Pinch Hit** rallied to grab the lead in mid-stretch and held off a late surge by **Champagne Problems** to win Saturday night's 42<sup>nd</sup> running of the \$100,000 Dogwood Stakes Presented by GE Appliances (Listed) at Churchill Downs by a neck.

Pinch Hit, the 5-1 third-betting choice in the field of nine 3-year-old fillies, relaxed nicely in sixth under jockey **Jon Court** as No More Babies set a swift opening quarter mile in :22.56 with **Student Body** and **Covenant** in close pursuit. After a half mile in :45.80, Pinch Hit rolled five-wide on the turn and was closing fast on the leaders at the head of the stretch before she took command with an eighth of a mile to run. Champagne Problems, who raced near the rear early on at odds of 13-1, stayed along the inside rail under **Calvin Borel** and just missed catching Pinch Hit, who held her off in the final stages.

"She was definitely on her game tonight," Court said. "We sat a really good trip behind the speed and she responded perfectly when I asked her. I was very impressed with her effort."

**Farrell**, the three-time Grade II winner who made her first start since a 14<sup>th</sup>-place finish at odds of 4-1 in the \$1 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (Grade I), chased the pace early on and faded in the stretch to disappoint as the 2-1 favorite.

Pinch Hit ran seven furlongs over a fast track in 1:23.27 for trainer **Brad Cox**.

"She had been training so well into this race," Cox said. "She definitely loves it here at Churchill Downs."

Pinch Hit returned \$12.20, \$7.20 and \$4.60 to her backers. Champagne Problems, paid \$12.80 and \$6.40. **Jordan's Henny**, ridden by **Corey Lanerie**, was another 3 ½ lengths back in third and returned \$5.

**Covenant**, **Farrell**, **Nineteenth Street**, **No More Babies**, **Student Body** and **My Sweet Stella** completed the order of finish. **Tequilita**, **Too Much Tip**, **Cara Blythe**, **Minnie Blip** and **Perfect Wife** were scratched.

The victory was worth \$59,520 and boosted Pinch Hit's earnings to \$146,450.

Pinch Hit has won four of nine starts but this was her first stakes win. In her prior start, she finished fourth in the \$100,000 Groupie Doll (GIII) on Aug. 13 at Ellis Park.

"In the Groupie Doll she got herself into a hot pace but she sat a much better trip tonight," Cox said. "I know this is a special horse for Richard so I'm glad we were able to get her a stakes win tonight."

Bred in Kentucky, Pinch Hit is a 3-year-old daughter of Harlan's Holiday out of Klein's Distorted Humor mare Change Up.

"This horse is so special to me," Klein said. "My father (**Bert**) bred this horse and she broke her maiden the day before he passed away earlier this year. Then, she won on my birthday and again on my (late) mom (**Elaine**)'s birthday. I think there are angels watching over her. To win a race like this, it is more special than I can really explain."

The Dogwood was the feature race on an 11-race "Downs After Dark Presented **Stella Artois** and **Woodford Reserve**" nighttime racing program that attracted 15,317 fans.

Immediately following the Dogwood, **Tom Fritz**'s Michigan homebred **Quick and Rich** scored a 19-1 upset of **Eastern Man** and defending champ and two-time reigning Arabian Horse of the Year **Paddys Day** in the \$100,000 President of the United Arab Emirates Cup (GI) for purebred Arabian 4-years-old and up.

Quick and Rich rallied from off the pace under **Joe Rocco Jr.** to get past 5-2 second choice Eastern Man inside the final sixteenth of a mile to win by three-quarters of a length. Paddys Day, the \$0.70-1 favorite, was another 1 ¼ lengths back in third.

Quick and Rich, a 7-year-old son of Th Richie conditioned by eight-time Darley Award-winning trainer **Lynn Ashby**, stopped the teletimer in 1:54.39 to score the first Grade I win of his career. Overall, it was his seventh win in 26 starts, and the \$58,280 winner's share jumped his earnings to \$173,964.

He paid \$41.20, \$16 and \$4.4 in the field of eight en route to his first victory since the Fourth of July in 2015. The upset triumph snapped an 11-race losing streak.

For Rocco, it was his third win in the stakes race. He won the 2013-14 renewals with **Valiant Boy SBFAR**.

This was the fifth time since 2011 a race for purebred Arabian horses – the world's most ancient breed of equines – was staged at the world-famous Churchill Downs.

## DOGWOOD QUOTES

**JON COURT, jockey of PINCH HIT (winner):** "I'm so grateful of Brad (Cox) and his whole team for getting this filly ready. She was definitely on her game tonight. We sat a really good trip behind the speed and she responded perfectly when I asked her. I was very impressed with her effort."

**BRAD COX, trainer of PINCH HIT (winner):** "She has been training so well into this race. She definitely loves it here at Churchill Downs. In the Groupie Doll she got herself into a hot pace but she sat a much better trip tonight. I know this is a special horse for Richard (Klein) so I'm glad we were able to get her a stakes win tonight."

**RICHARD KLEIN, owner of PINCH HIT (winner):** "This horse is so special to me. My father (Bert) bred this horse and she broke her maiden the day before he passed away earlier this year. Then, she won on my birthday and again on my (late) mom (Elaine)'s birthday. I think there are angels watching over her. To win a race like this, it is more special than I can really explain."

**IAN WILKES, trainer of CHAMPAGNE PROBLEMS (runner-up):** "The filly went to the paddock really good today. She saddled well and relaxed beautifully in the race for Calvin (Borel) and she ran good. She ran a winning race – except we just didn't win. If I can get her to relax, I really feel that she can do it. She's always had the talent."

**MIKE TOMLINSON, trainer of JORDAN'S HENNY (third):** "She ran very well. It was just a wide trip and post position got her hung out there a little wide and that hurt us a little. But she ran her eyeballs out and it looks to me like we just couldn't quite get there. She's going to be a better filly with age. She's maturing and getting better and we're looking forward to her 4-year-old year."

## PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES CUP QUOTES

**JOE ROCCO JR., jockey of QUICK AND RICH (winner):** "He ran a huge race tonight. I've won this race a couple of other times before and he's up there with some of the best Arabians I've ever ridden. Paddys Day is a very nice horse and tonight we were just the best. I'll be excited to go back overseas and ride him."

**LYNN ASHBY, trainer of QUICK AND RICH (winner):** "The real difference maker tonight was Joe Rocco. He has such a great clock and rode the absolute perfect race. This absolutely made my year to win this race."

**TOM FRITZ, owner/breeder of QUICK AND RICH (winner):** "I would have never imagined I would get a win at Churchill Downs. To beat a horse like Paddys Day is unbelievable. This is the last horse I bred that will race so it's very special to win this race."

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**NEW 'EUROPEAN ROAD TO KENTUCKY DERBY' KICKS OFF SUNDAY WITH GROUP II BERESFORD** – The new seven-race "European Road to the Kentucky Derby" kicks off Sunday in Ireland with the Beresford Stakes (GII) for 2-year-olds at one mile on the turf.

Much like the "Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby," the new "European Road to the Kentucky Derby" is a stand-alone series of seven races that is separate from America's 35-race "Road to the Kentucky Derby" sequence. Only one position in the Kentucky Derby starting gate will be awarded to the horse that accrues the most points in the "European Road to the Kentucky Derby" and accepts an invitation to compete.

Carded as Race 7 at Naas, with a post time at 12 p.m. (all times Eastern), the Beresford features a field of five juveniles seeking their first group stakes victory.

Leading the charge in the Beresford is top European trainer **Aidan O'Brien**. The Ireland native has three horses entered including morning line favorite **Saxton Warrior**. The Japanese-bred son of Deep Impact was an eye-catching debut winner last month at Curragh.

O'Brien will be seeking his record-extending 17<sup>th</sup> victory in the Beresford and has won the race six consecutive years.

Saxton Warrior will be joined by fellow O'Brien trainees **Delano Roosevelt** (3-1 morning line odds) and **Kew Gardens** (7-2). Saxton Warrior will be ridden by **Ryan Moore** while O'Brien's son, **Donnacha**, is signed on to ride Kew Gardens and **Seamus Heffernan** has the call on Delano Roosevelt.

The Beresford is well-known for producing extremely-talented horses. In 1969, eventual English Triple Crown winner **Nijinsky** was victorious in the Beresford. The Canadian-bred, Irish-based horse, was the eventual British Horse of the Year in 1970 and eventually became a leading sire in Great Britain and Ireland.

In 2016, the Beresford produced Irish Derby champion **Capri**. The now 3-year-old son of Galileo was ridden by Moore and trained by O'Brien.

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The Beresford will award points to the Top 4 finishing positions: 10 points to the winner, four points to the runner-up, two points to the third-place horse and one-point to the fourth-place finisher.

The other 2-year-old races on the “European Road to the Kentucky” are the Sept. 30 Juddmonte Royal Lodge (G2) at England’s **Newmarket Racecourse**; the Oct. 1 Qatar Prix Jean-Luc Lagardère (G1) on the Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe undercard at France’s **Chantilly Racecourse**; and the Oct. 28 Racing Post Trophy (G1) at England’s **Doncaster Racecourse**.

Two one-mile races for 3-year-olds in early March over synthetic “all weather” racing surfaces – the Road to the Kentucky Derby Condition Stakes at England’s **Kempton Park Racecourse** on March 1 and the Patton Stakes (Listed) at Ireland’s **Dundalk Stadium** on March 2 – will be awarded points on a scale of 20-8-4-2.

The series will climax March 30 with the one-mile Burradon Stakes at England’s **Newcastle Racecourse**, in which points will increase to 30-12-6-3 for the Top 4 finishers.

**CHURCHILL DOWNS CONNECTIONS READY FOR BIG WEEKEND AROUND COUNTRY** – Several Churchill Downs-based jockeys and trainers will be out of town Sunday for Remington Park’s Oklahoma Derby (GIII) card.

“Weekends like this keep me really busy,” trainer **Ron Moquett** said. “We have horses at Churchill, Delaware, Ellis Park, Laurel, and Remington Park. We have a few horses in at Churchill this weekend but also running **Petrov** in the Gallant Bob (GIII) at Parx and **Torrent** in the Remington Park Oaks (GIII).”

Jockeys **Robby Albarado**, **Jon Court**, **Julien Leparoux**, **C.J. McMahon**, and **Ricardo Santana Jr.** are all scheduled to make the journey to Remington Park in Oklahoma City to ride.

McMahon, who was dropped after the start of Race 5 Friday at Churchill Downs, was cleared to ride after further evaluation.

Scheduled to join Moquett at Remington Park are trainers **Steve Asmussen**, **J.R. Caldwell**, **Bret Calhoun**, **William “Jinx” Fires**, **Chris Hartman**, **Mike Maker**, **Joe Sharp**, **Mike Tomlinson**, **Donnie K. Von Hemel**, and **Ian Wilkes**.

The 1 1/8-mile Oklahoma Derby features three horses that were in Kentucky Derby 143: **Battle of Midway** (2-1 morning line), **Girvin** (7-2), and **Untrapped** (5-1).

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